1	2	3	4	5	6
6	Arunachal Pradesh	17	0	0	0
7	Assam	398	11	43	20
8	Manipur	29	2	0	0
9	Meghalaya	51	4	1	5
10	Mizoram	54	0	3	6
11	Nagaland	8	0	0	0
12	Tripura	87	6	2	0
13	Bihar	1486	18	7	36
14	Jharkhand	390	10	36	1
15	Orissa	831	2	40	28
16	West Bengal	873	22	14	96
17	Chhattisgarh	436	0	5	17
18	Madhya Pradesh	1053	0	33	33
19	Uttaranchal	168	19	4	6
20	Uttar Pradesh	2844	3	122	45
21	Gujarat	376	34	43	35
22	Maharashtra	593	1	28	14
23	Andhra Pradesh	1170	7	130	80
24	Karnataka	1113	0	30	63
25	Kerala	353	0	94	37
26	Tamil Nadu	209	1	15	0
	TOTAL	14446	150	724	636

External debt

*93. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India's external debt has risen to US $ 113 billion as on June 2004;

(b) the components that helped in increase of external debt;

(c) the reasons for short-term debt increase to US $ 1.2 billion during the recent review period; and

(d) what measures Government are taking to reduce the external debt burden of the country?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) India's total external debt increased by US $ 0.1 billion to US $ 112.6 billion as at end-June 2004 from US $ 112.5 billion as at end-March 2004. The increase was due to a rise in the short term debt.

(c) The short term debt increased from US $ 4.7 billion at end-March 2004 to US $ 5.9 billion at end-June 2004. The increase in the short term debt of US $ 1.2 billion was due to a rise in trade credits resulting from higher imports during April-June 2004.

(d) The Government follows prudent external debt management policies which include emphasis on raising funds on concessional terms and from less expensive sources with longer maturities, monitoring of short term debt, prepaying high cost loans and encouraging non-debt creating capital flows.

VAT on tea and coffee

*94. SHRI ABANI ROY:
PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering imposing Value Added Tax (VAT) on tea and coffee at the rate of 12.5 per cent;

(b) if so, the reasons for imposing higher rate of VAT on tea and coffee especially, when these commodities are considered to be of mass consumption by weaker sections of society; and

(c) whether Government would reconsider their decision to lower the VAT rates on these commodities and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) As per Entry 54, List II of the seventh Schedule to the Constitution, tax on sale or purchase of goods within a State is a State subject. The VAT system proposed to be introduced by the States/UTs with effect from 1st April, 2005 is to replace the existing sales systems in the States/UTs. On the recommendation of the Chief Ministers' Conference held on